

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061962

12
ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 AID-05 USIA-15 PA-02 SS-15 NSC-05

/054 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:BWBRWN

H:KFOLGER (INFO)

NEA/P:GSHERMAN (INFO)

AID/NESA/SA:JCOLES (INFO)

USIA/INA:CSNOW (INFO)

----- 001980

R 192008Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 061962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: NEPAL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

NEW DELHI FOR KUX

1. MARCH 17 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD CONTAINS STATEMENT BY SENATOR PERCY ON CORONATION AND TEXTS OF KING BIRENDRA'S TWO SPEECHES (FEBRUARY 24 AND 25) AND PRIME MINISTER RIJAL'S SPEECH FEBRUARY 24. TEXT OF PERCY STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT, I RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO NEPAL WHERE I ATTENDED THE CORONATION CEREMONIES OF HIS MAJESTY KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT. OUR DELEGATION, HEADED BY MR. PHILIP W. BUCHEN, COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT, AND CONSISTING OF AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL WILLIAM I. CARGO,
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CONGRESSMAN L.H. FOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA; ASSISTANT

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAROL C. LAISE,
MR. JAMES E. BROWN, UTAH; MRS. MARQUITA MAYTAG, CALIFORNIA;
AND AMBASSADOR TO NIGER L. DOUGLAS HECK IN ADDITION TO
MYSELF, RETURNED FROM THE 3 DAYS OF OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS
FEBRUARY 23-25, EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS NEPAL HAS ACHIEVED AND THE SUPERB ORGANIZATION
WHICH CHARACTERIZED THIS OCCASION.

3. THIS SMALL LAND-LOCKED COUNTRY OF APPROXIMATELY 12
MILLION PEOPLE LIES NESTLED ALONG THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS
BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA. THE NEPALESE WHO ARE FIERCELY
PROUD OF THEIR OWN UNIQUE TRADITIONS, IMPRESSED UPON US
THEIR DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND
SOVEREIGNTY AND TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD OVERCOMING THEIR
CHALLENGING DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS. THE U.S. DELEGATION
STRESSED OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH
NEPAL AND OUR SUPPORT FOR NEPAL'S INDEPENDENCE AND
DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESS.

4. IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES
OF 57 COUNTRIES, KING BIRENDRA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO
REITERATE HIS CONCERN FOR PEACE AS A PREREQUISITE TO
NEPAL'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. WE ASSURED HIM
THAT THIS IS OUR OWN GOAL AND THAT OUR PRIMARY INTEREST
IN SOUTH ASIA IS PEACE AND STABILITY, WHICH WE SEE AS
ESSENTIAL FOR THE AREA'S CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT.

5. THE 29-YEAR-OLD KING FACES A DIFFICULT TASK IN
OVERCOMING CENTURIES OF ISOLATION ON THE ONE HAND AND
THE EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS ON
THE OTHER, BUT HE RECOGNIZES THE TASK AND HAS COMMITTED
HIMSELF TO MOVING HIS COUNTRY FORWARD. IN ORDER TO DO
THIS, HE HAS SET AS ONE OF HIS TOP PRIORITIES IMPROV-
EMENT OF NEPAL'S EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE REDUCTION OF
ILLITERACY. WE SHOULD COMMEND HIM ON HIS FARSIGHTEDNESS
IN CHANNELING HIS COUNTRY'S RESOURCES AND ENERGY IN THIS
FIELD WHICH WILL HAVE LONG-TERM BENEFICIAL IMPLICATIONS
IN EVERY OTHER AREA OF NEPAL'S DEVELOPMENT. HIS EFFORTS
DESERVE OUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

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6. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THREE ADDRESSES GIVEN
ON THIS OCCASION, THE FIRST BY PRIME MINISTER OF
NEPAL RIJAL, AND TWO BY KING BIRENDRA BE PRINTED IN
THE RECORD.

7. THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, THE ADDRESSES WERE ORDERED
TO BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD, AS FOLLOWS. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORONATION, MONARCHY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE061962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RDLORTON:MMK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-0860
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750335/aaaabfiy.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <23 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEPAL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD NEW DELHI FOR KUX
TAGS: PFOR, NP, US, (PERCY, CHARLES)
To: KATHMANDU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006